



Eco Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday 10th February 2023

Attendees: Charlie, Naomi, Amy, Patrick, Lucas, Jaydon, Madelyn, Percy, Emma, Joshua, Darcey, Iona and George

A packed and very busy meeting commenced with a welcome to new members and an overview of the competitions that we had entered over the past year were read out with details of results and prizes awarded. All wished to continue with our competitions however, staff should not be allowed to assist with any growing – it should be entirely child-led! Pumpkin/potato/chilli and sunflower challenges were all requested.

All the children were really enthusiastic and wished to express their ideas about projects and external competitions that they would like to undertake this year either in the garden, school grounds or further afield especially those covering Eco matters including recycling and the redevelopment of green spaces to attract and support wildlife.

The ever popular litter pick was well received and arranged to take place as soon as we return back after half term. Mrs Deasy mentioned the amount of litter brought into Forest School by foxes which was a bit upsetting and explained that adults were not ensuring that their waste was properly stored before collection by our bin men and women. Madelyn reminded us that the last litter pick saw a lot of packed lunch waste found on the field. All agreed that an assembly prior to 'packed lunch season' would be a good time to remind children that cling film is a definite 'no no' when it comes to sandwich wrappings and a bit of 'pester power' from children to adults could prevent its use. Suggestions of signage in the playgrounds encouraging children to put waste in bins can be arranged. Mrs Deasy will look into sourcing a number of litter picking sticks for future use.

Recycling and food waste was also spoken about. Many present were upset about the amount of food that was wasted at lunchtimes. All thought it a good idea to try to encourage children to eat all that is on their plate or to ask for less. Again, it was suggested that an assembly could touch on food waste to highlight this issue. Fruit recycling from KS1 at break times was also mentioned and Mrs Deasy will look into the possibility of a bin for all apart from citrus peelings. Paper recycling was brought up and the suggestion that the recycling bins should be brought into the classrooms - Mrs Weeks and staff to be approached.

Electricity and the need to save energy were discussed and all children said that they would turn off lights and computers in the ICT suite to ensure that we do not waste energy unnecessarily. Water too, if we see dripping taps turn them off!

We also talked about Lost Property and the amount of items left at school. All agreed that a note should go out to all parents to ensure that every item of school clothing is labelled including, coats/hats/scarves etc and children encouraged to take more care over their items. Mrs Deasy will speak with the office and consideration given to supply all teachers with laundry markers. Again, this could be mentioned in an assembly.

A flower garden was requested. Mrs Deasy explained that more flowers were being grown in the school garden but she will arrange for more around the school site and touched on the School Council request for flowers and bulbs to be planted in and around the Peace Garden.

To be arranged before next meeting:-

- Date for litter pick and sourcing of litter picking sticks
- Date for assembly
- Meeting with staff to discuss class recycling